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MONTANA LABOR MARKET

Monthly Review of
EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK, LABOR SUPPLY, LABOR DEMAND, CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

MONTANA STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

Division of Unemployment Compensation Commission of Montana

Edgar H. Reeder, Chairman

HELENA INDEPENDENT RECORD

HELENA MONTANA

UCC Building — P. O. Box 1728 — Helena, Montana

James J. Flaherty, Commissioner

Rex F. Hibbs, Commissioner

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FL. 265

AUGUST, 1965

Brisk Montana Economy Keeps Setting New Records

Non-Farm Jobs Hit All Time High— The Montana economy is just plain determined to keep on setting new employment records this year. July was the seventh consecutive month this year to record higher levels of non-farm employment over the same months a year ago. July 15th estimates compiled by the Commission in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics revealed a record breaking July employment total of 185,500 non-farm wage earners. This total exceeded July, 1964 employment by 3,200 workers, and bore out earlier predictions that non-farm employment this year would exceed the 185,000 mark. Reflecting the seasonal aspects of Montana's economy, the July employment total was 18,500 above the seasonal low of last February.

July Hiring Widespread— Increased hiring by nearly every industry segment highlighted the Montana economy during July. Employment was up in six basic industry groups, one showed no change, and another posted a normal seasonal decline for this time of the year. Comparisons with July, 1964 employment figures show substantial gains this July in five industries while moderate declines occurred in three others.

Construction Keeps Good Pace— Payrolls of construction contractors at 14,000 were 200 heavier in July than in June, and exceeded July, 1964 by 800 workers. Work on some highway and building projects was interrupted at times by bad weather. As the weather

cleared, the work pace quickened and shortages of experienced building craftsmen and heavy equipment operators developed in some areas.

Main Street In High Gear— Retail trade firms added 400 workers to July payrolls and chalked up a sizeable increase of 1,400 over July of last year. Good summer buying trends coupled with unusually good tourist traffic kept trade activities at high volume. The opening of new supermarkets and other trade firms throughout the state contributed to the employment picture. Worker shortages persisted in many classifications including cooks, waitresses, maids, and sales clerks.

Other Trends— Over-the-month employment gains were also recorded in manufacturing, up 400; mining, up 100; transportation, utilities and communications, up 300; and the service industries, up 300. Payrolls of finance, insurance and real estate firms, at 7,000 showed no change. The only decline from June payrolls was in government with a decline of 1,800. The drop was all at the state and local level and reflected the seasonal release of workers in education fields. Payrolls of federal agencies showed an increment of 300, mostly seasonal workers hired for summer projects.

Unemployment Compensation Observes a Birthday— Born of economic strife and distress in the mid-30's, the Unemployment Compensation marked a healthy 30th anniversary on August 14th. Signed into law on August 14,

1935, the Social Security Act made it possible for the creation of a nationwide system of unemployment insurance. Montana became a partner in this federal-state relationship on March 16, 1937, when the Montana law became effective. The first unemployment benefit check in Montana was issued on July 22, 1939. Since that time and through June 30th of this year a total of \$115.3 million in unemployment benefit checks have provided unemployed workers with some purchasing power for rent, groceries, clothes, and other necessities during terms of unemployment. Since the beginning of the program in Montana, the number of workers insured under the program has increased from 84,000 to 113,000, the amount of the average weekly benefit has risen from \$11.20 to \$31.20, and the maximum duration for which benefits may be drawn has lengthened from 16 weeks to 26 weeks.

Montana Has 75 In Job Corps— Seventy-five young Montana men are now enrolled in work and study programs in job corps camps throughout the United States. Eleven others are now awaiting camp assignments and transportation orders. Seventeen of the young men were enrolled from the Butte area, 11 from Billings, 9 from Great Falls, 5 from Missoula, and 4 each from Anaconda, Bozeman, Helena, and Kalispell. The remainder were from smaller communities throughout the state. The Job Corps program is designed to help young people who are out of school and cannot find a job.

LABOR TURNOVER RATES IN MANUFACTURING AND MINING INDUSTRIES

(per 100 employees)

(Compiled in cooperation with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	ACCESSION RATE						SEPARATION RATE					
	Total			New Hire			Total			Quit		
	June 1965	May 1965	June 1964	June 1965	May 1965	June 1964	June 1965	May 1965	June 1964	June 1965	May 1965	June 1964
All Manufacturing	8.7	5.0	7.3	7.8	4.3	6.7	4.8	4.1	3.6	2.6	2.4	2.4
Durable Goods	9.3	6.1	8.1	8.3	5.2	7.4	5.5	4.8	4.1	3.2	2.8	2.8
Primary Metal	8.6	2.7	6.4	7.5	2.4	5.6	4.8	1.8	2.5	1.0	1.0	1.3
Nondurable Goods	7.4	3.0	5.8	6.3	2.7	5.2	3.5	2.9	2.7	1.5	1.7	1.6
All Mining	8.8	6.9	9.2	4.6	3.9	6.5	8.4	7.8	7.1	4.0	4.1	4.3
Metal Mining	10.4	6.3	9.9	4.3	1.3	6.2	6.4	5.7	8.1	3.6	3.6	4.4

*Less Than .05

Along the Hiring Line— Field Summary for July 1

ANACONDA, Deer Lodge, Phillipsburg—(354 jobseekers, 152 new, 221 men, 133 women). Job placements in industry down from last month and last year due to slowdown in manufacturing hires. Temporary shutdown of Garrison phosphate plant also a factor. Trends in other industry segments hold to good seasonal levels.

BILLINGS, Columbus, Hardin, Laurel, Red Lodge, Roundup—2,137 jobseekers, 861 new, 1,358 men, 779 women). Area employment trends holding firm in most industry groups with some already at peak. Construction, trade, service, and agriculture all exhibit good activity. City building permits during July totaled over \$1 million, with \$795,000 in new construction. Good tourist traffic augurs well for main street trade and service firms. After slow start early in July, farm hiring made brisk demands for grain harvest.

BOZEMAN, Ennis, Three Forks, Trident—(196 jobseekers, 219 new, 99 men, 97 women). Construction most active force on local labor market scene. Activity in trade shows slight decline as construction of new main street hampers traffic. Main street business in surrounding resort towns at high volume. Peak employment in logging and sawmills to continue until checked by bad weather.

BUTTE, Virginia City, Whitehall—(1,172 jobseekers, 328 new, 749 men, 423 women). Employment in construction, trade and service industries at high point for this season. Right-of-way problems held up some highway construction releasing 25 men. Demand for experienced hard rock miners increasing; plans underway to train 50 student miners.

CUT BANK—(135 jobseekers, 24 new, 97 men, 38 women). Farm economy appears most optimistic sector of area. Grain crops should bring record yields. Several construction projects active but little hiring in evidence. Lengthy labor dispute on main street still causing concern.

DILLON—(124 jobseekers, 130 new, 36 men, 38 women). Active agenda of industrial and farm projects keeping area economy on firm basis. Variety of construction includes bridge, overpass and highway projects, commercial buildings, homes and remodeling projects. More than 100 workers placed on farm jobs.

NINE YEARS OF MONTANA INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT TOTALS, BY MONTHS (in Thousands)

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Aver.
1956	156.6	154.4	156.3	163.0	169.3	177.4	177.4	179.8	177.2	174.6	170.4	166.7	168.6
1957	156.8	155.0	156.8	161.3	166.0	172.0	174.2	174.2	170.8	167.4	163.2	159.9	164.8
1958	153.1	150.3	150.5	156.4	162.4	167.1	170.2	172.2	170.0	168.8	165.8	162.4	162.4
1959	155.3	153.2	155.9	162.2	167.5	174.0	177.5	179.2	169.9	165.8	161.5	159.4	165.1
1960	152.7	152.5	156.1	163.5	168.4	175.8	176.9	177.7	174.8	171.6	167.5	164.5	166.8
1961	156.9	154.8	156.1	160.2	165.1	173.3	176.0	178.1	176.8	172.4	169.0	166.2	167.1
1962	159.3	158.2	159.6	166.2	172.4	180.1	180.5	181.2	178.6	176.6	175.1	173.5	171.7
1963	163.9	163.0	165.0	170.2	175.1	181.0	182.3	183.8	181.5	179.7	176.6	173.6	174.6
1964	166.2	164.3	165.1	169.6	174.0	181.3	182.3	183.0	180.9	178.2	174.1	172.4	174.3
1965	168.1	167.0	168.3	172.7	177.5	185.6	185.5*						

*Preliminary Estimate

MONTANA CIVILIAN WORK FORCE (In Thousands)

	July 65	June 65	July 64	June 65 to July 65	July 61 to July 65
Civilian Work Force	275.0	269.8	276.3	5.2	-1.3
Total Employment	266.0	259.4	267.0	6.6	-1.0
Total Non-agricultural Employment	217.6	215.1	215.0	2.5	2.6
(Non-agricultural Wage & Salary)	185.5	185.6	182.3	-1	3.2
Total Agricultural Employment	48.4	44.3	52.0	4.1	-3.6
Labor Management Disputes	.4	.2	.2	.2	.2
Total Unemployment	8.6	10.2	9.1	-1.6	-5.5
Percent Unemployed	3.1	3.8	3.3		
U. S. Unemployment Rate	NA	5.5	5.0		

GLASGOW, Fort Peck, Malta, Opheim—(174 jobseekers, 64 new, 67 men, 107 women). Job hires in construction, trade, and service show some decline from last year. Lack of construction projects and related hiring activities kept unemployment claim totals over year ago. Normal seasonal demand for hay hands during July.

GLENDIVE, Circle, Wibaux—(137 jobseekers, 63 new, 72 men, 65 women). Area economy fails to match vitality of last year. Construction at all time low for this time of year. New bank building and few homes comprise building construction; no highway work in progress. Oil field work slowed with some layoffs. Brisk farm labor activity.

GREAT FALLS, Choteau, Fort Benton, Stanford—(1,124 jobseekers, 410 new, 511 men, 613 women). Trade and service firms provided most job openings during July. Fairly active trends also prevailed in construction and manufacturing. Summer work for U.S. Forest Service made 75 jobs. Good crop conditions cover entire area with heavy demand for harvest hands expected as harvest advances.

HAMILTON, Stevensville—(275 jobseekers, 54 new, 146 men, 129 women). Active hiring occurred in industry and farm during July. Construction agenda includes two churches, retail store, and rest home. Some forest service hiring but not on par with last year. Heavy demand for timber fallers and carpenters.

HAVRE, Chinook, Harlem—(103 jobseekers, 4 new, 50 men, 53 women). Industrial job placements below last year due chiefly to less hiring in construction fields this season. Heavy rains during much of July held up some building projects. Brisk hiring trends on farm front with worker shortages developing.

HELENA, Boulder, Garrison, Townsend, White Sulphur Springs—(783 jobseekers, 249 new, 379 men, 404 women). Fair labor demand in most industries during July with exception of food service and lumbering and logging where worker shortages existed. Construction maintains steady trends despite some decline in heavy building. Good activity in tourist oriented industries.

KALISPELL, Columbia Falls, Eureka, Libby, Whitefish—(702 jobseekers, 380 new, 467 men, 235 women). July hiring gains most noticeable in lumber and metal manufacturing. Expanded plywood production and increased demand for logs kept lumber industry active. Good upswing also noted in retail trade. Addition of new potline at Columbia Falls aluminum plant made more new jobs.

LEWISTOWN, Harlowton, Ryegeate, Winnett—(95 jobseekers, 92 new, 36 men, 59 women). Upswing in hiring for various agricultural activities dominated the July labor market scene. Youth and migrant labor made up much of the labor supply for these jobs. Industry hiring shows but slight increase over year ago. Work continues on \$1.6 million in construction projects, both highway and building.

LIVINGSTON, Big Timber—(119 jobseekers, 66 new, 62 men, 57 women). Employment directions in industry and agriculture keeping at good seasonal levels. Increased tourism spurred demand for cooks, waitresses, maids, etc. Demand for young workers in Yellowstone Park continues. Stepped up pace in logging and lumbering created shortages of equipment operators and mill hands.

MILES CITY, Baker, Ekalaka, Broadus, Jordan, Terry—(182 jobseekers, 96 new, 76 men, 106 women). Adverse effects of hail damage to farm crops

Along the Hiring Line— Field Summary for July 1

transmitted to main street business with noticeable decline in consumer spending. Sugar beet losses of from 50 to 75 per cent estimated on 2,500 acres.

MISSOULA, Drummond, Arlee Superior—(1,645 jobseekers, 504 new, 999 men, 646 women). All facets of local economy enjoying optimistic trends with peak employment reached on many. Substantial employment gains noted over last year. Hiring for government projects and facilities nearly doubled, mostly for summer projects. Construction, trade and service, and manufacturing stay in high gear.

POLSON—(209 jobseekers, 90 new, 159 men, 50 women). Labor demand starting to level off with best employment months past. Construction active on three projects including bridge, night club, and beehive factory, but little hiring on any. Logging and mills on an on-again off-again schedule. Farm labor demand down due to poor cherry crop.

SHELBY—(116 jobseekers, 49 new, 78 men, 38 women). Unsettled weather disturbed hiring activity in construction, oil fields, and farms during July. Seasonal trends keep main street trade and service volume fairly active. New super market construction to start in August. Farm labor demand up for harvest.

SIDNEY—(93 jobseekers, 41 new, 42 men, 51 women). Healthy employment trends cover farm and industry segments of economy. Wheat, sugar beets, and bean yields are expected to be record setters. Nearly 1,000 on farm jobs during July. Major construction projects include Sidney bank and school at Culbertson.

THOMPSON FALLS, Hot Springs—(77 jobseekers, 44 new, 51 men, 26 women). Labor market activity in industry and farm exhibited good vitality during July. Farm job placements double the 1964 figure. Logging and lumbering set the hiring pace, followed by demand from forest service projects. Main street trends stable.

WOLF POINT, Plentywood, Scobey—(155 jobseekers, 49 new, 113 men, 42 women). Increased hiring noted in construction and oil field activities during July. Three drilling rigs began work; field exploration work active with 6 crews in area. Replacement hiring in trade and service firms will shape-up late August as employed students leave for school. Over 100 placed in farm work.

(1) Estimates include all full and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period ending nearest the 15th of the month. Proprietors, firm members, personnel of the armed forces, domestic servants, and self-employed persons are excluded.

(2) Preliminary estimates based on return from samples of 820 selected Montana establishments.

(3) Figures previously released have been revised on return from 1,223 such establishments.

(4) Includes fabricated metal products, machinery except electrical, furniture, stone and clay products.

(5) Includes apparel, chemicals, and miscellaneous manufacturing products.

ESTIMATED EMPLOYMENT IN NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES IN MONTANA (1)

(Compiled in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT			Net Change	
	July 1965 (2)	June 1965 (3)	July 1964	June '65 to July '65	July '65 Against July '64
NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES	185,500	185,600	182,300	-100	3,200
Manufacturing	23,000	22,600	23,100	-100	-100
Durable goods	14,600	14,400	15,000	200	-400
Lumber and timber products	9,200	9,000	9,600	200	-400
Primary metals	3,600	3,600	3,500	00	100
Other (4)	1,800	1,800	1,900	00	-100
Nondurable goods	8,400	8,200	8,100	200	300
Food and kindred products	4,500	4,400	4,400	100	100
Printing and publishing	1,800	1,700	1,700	100	100
Petroleum refining	1,200	1,200	1,200	00	00
Other (5)	900	900	800	00	100
Mining	7,300	7,200	7,700	100	-400
Metal mining	4,500	4,500	5,000	00	500
Coal, quarrying and nonmetallic	1,200	1,100	900	100	300
Petroleum-natural gas production	1,600	1,600	1,800	00	-200
Contract Construction	14,000	13,800	13,200	200	800
Contractors, building construction	3,900	4,100	4,100	-200	-200
Contractors, other than building	4,500	4,500	5,000	00	500
Contractors, special trade	5,600	5,200	4,100	400	1,500
Transportation and utilities	18,200	17,900	18,100	300	100
Interstate railroads	7,900	7,800	8,000	100	-100
Transportation except railroads	4,000	3,900	4,000	100	100
Utilities including communication	6,300	6,200	6,100	100	100
Trade	44,000	43,600	42,400	400	1,600
Wholesale trade	8,600	8,600	8,400	00	200
Retail trade	35,400	35,000	34,000	400	1,400
General merchandise and apparel	7,000	6,900	6,300	100	700
Food stores	5,300	5,300	5,200	00	100
Eating and drinking establishments	10,000	9,800	9,600	200	400
Automotive and filling stations	7,100	7,000	6,800	100	300
Retail trade not elsewhere classified	6,000	6,000	6,100	00	-100
Finance, insurance and real estate	7,000	7,000	7,100	00	-100
Services and miscellaneous	26,100	25,800	25,900	300	200
Hotels, rooming houses, camps, etc.	4,300	4,100	4,200	200	100
Personal services	2,100	2,100	2,100	00	00
Other (6)	19,700	19,600	19,600	100	100
Government	45,900	47,700	44,800	-1,800	1,100
Federal	13,200	12,900	12,900	300	300
State and local	32,700	34,800	31,900	-2,100	800
Great Falls Area (Cascade County)	23,800	23,300	22,500	500	1,300
Manufacturing	3,400	3,300	3,200	100	200
Contract construction	3,200	3,000	2,200	200	1,000
Transportation and utilities	2,200	2,200	2,300	00	-100
Trade, wholesale and retail	5,700	5,600	5,600	100	100
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	1,200	1,200	1,300	00	-100
Services and miscellaneous (7)	3,900	3,800	3,800	100	100
Government	4,200	4,200	4,100	00	100
Billings Area (Yellowstone County)	25,700	25,800	25,400	-100	300
Manufacturing	3,200	3,100	3,200	100	00
Contract construction	1,800	1,900	2,200	-100	400
Transportation and utilities	2,700	2,700	2,700	00	00
Trade, wholesale and retail	7,900	7,900	7,600	00	300
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	1,400	1,400	1,400	00	00
Services and Miscellaneous (7)	5,000	5,000	4,700	00	300
Government	3,700	3,800	3,600	-100	100

(1) Includes commercial trade schools, auto repair services and garages, miscellaneous repair services and hand trades, motion pictures, amusements and recreation, medical and health, law offices and professional services, non-profit member-

ship organizations and businesses not otherwise classified.

(2) Same as (6) above. Also includes hotels, rooming houses, camps, personal services and mining.

COMPARISON OF BASIC LABOR MARKET ACTIVITIES IN JULY 1965 AND JULY 1964

Employment Service Office	New Job Applicants				Jobseekers in File				Job Placements						U1 Claims*			
	July 1965		July 1964		July 1965		July 1964		July 1965			July 1964			Wk. 7-30			
	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.	1964	1963
Anaconda	152	9	97	10	354	17	201	13	67	29	96	11	105	32	137	14	88	94
Billings	573	143	777	151	1,412	290	2,264	405	418	1,049	1,467	205	545	1,209	1,754	318	625	614
Bozeman	219	34	261	60	196	26	166	35	181	124	305	42	210	180	390	66	60	43
Butte	328	66	421	39	1,172	134	1,120	153	167	29	196	28	186	29	215	45	364	357
Cut Bank	24	5	55	6	135	22	223	63	71	98	169	37	50	127	177	53	33	53
Dillon	130	54	122	57	124	26	58	12	28	108	136	61	46	195	241	99	50	27
Glasgow	64	1	120	14	174	6	195	16	66	70	136	9	98	98	196	34	53	43
Glendive	63	2	32	1	137	5	58	3	27	828	855	8	62	907	969	9	26	11
Great Falls	410	42	524	87	1,124	142	1,200	209	403	449	852	132	402	506	908	188	343	455
Hamilton	54	3	61	7	275	11	205	14	86	302	388	28	69	157	226	24	55	48
Havre	44	5	41	3	103	10	88	5	65	96	161	44	72	152	224	82	71	57
Helena	249	30	177	18	783	62	397	50	172	210	382	58	198	277	475	99	164	177
Kalispell	280	54	508	89	702	104	793	151	257	70	327	52	476	254	730	121	188	230
Lewistown	92	7	93	19	95	9	111	18	46	173	219	46	44	153	197	54	37	61
Livingston	66	5	55	4	119	4	114	7	144	109	253	41	137	125	262	52	23	37
Miles City	96	7	92	10	182	14	119	13	48	565	613	18	67	365	432	11	42	45
Missoula	504	59	424	54	1,645	114	1,285	182	295	305	600	96	321	241	562	87	193	187
Polson	90	10	225	2	209	26	452	6	44	84	128	8	59	68	127	21	59	53
Shelby	49	15	63	17	116	11	134	18	51	113	164	37	58	63	121	27	21	19
Sidney	41	4	45	6	93	3	87	8	61	976	1,037	12	59	793	852	25	19	15
Thom. Falls	44	6	62	7	77	9	118	14	46	34	80	5	55	14	69	17	22	30
Wolf Point	49	10	61	8	155	31	100	21	43	110	153	21	20	137	157	16	53	34
Billings YOC**	288	—	—	—	725	—	—	—	114	40	154	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	4,009	571	4,316	669	10,107	1,076	9,648	1,416	2,900	5,971	8,871	999	3,339	6,082	9,421	1,462	2,589	2,690

*Includes 168 claims of the Fed. UC Program 208 same a year ago. **Youth Opportunity Center.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN SELECTED MONTANA INDUSTRIES

(Produced in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)
(Hours and earnings data exclude administrative and salaried personnel)

INDUSTRY	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	July (1) 1965	June (2) 1965	July 1964	July (1) 1965	June (2) 1965	July 1964	July (1) 1965	June (2) 1965	July 1964
All Manufacturing	117.87	117.58	113.55	42.4	42.6	41.9	2.78	2.76	2.71
Durable Goods	116.26	116.85	113.42	42.9	43.6	42.8	2.71	2.68	2.65
Primary Metals	121.89	117.31	114.11	41.6	41.6	40.9	2.93	2.82	2.79
Nondurable Goods	123.48	120.30	114.11	42.0	41.2	39.9	2.94	2.92	2.86
Food and Kindred Products	109.72	109.42	101.84	44.6	44.3	41.4	2.46	2.47	2.46
All Mining	115.82	117.65	118.89	38.1	38.7	38.6	3.04	3.04	3.08
Metal Mining	110.98	110.98	115.81	35.8	35.8	37.6	3.10	3.10	3.08
Transportation and Utilities (except Rys.)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Transportation (except railroads)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Utilities and Communications	113.59	116.47	111.50	38.9	41.3	40.4	2.92	2.82	2.76

(1) Preliminary estimates. (2) Figures previously released have been revised on more complete returns.

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